



GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

Turn Your Office Green



- 1) **Turn It Down!** -- We all know the June heat can be intense in the office, but blasting the A.C. all summer long takes a lot of energy and a lot of money. Be business savvy *and* help battle climate change...set your A. C a few degrees higher!
- 2) **Make Your Potlucks Green!** - Use reusable dishes rather than plastics or Styrofoam at office gatherings or get-togethers. If you absolutely must use disposables, make sure to pick up compostable varieties beforehand and put them in the compost bin when you're through.
- 3) **Don't Fake It!** — Bring real plants into the office! Fake greenery might be low-maintenance, but the real thing adds beauty and oxygen to your surroundings. One 6" plant per 100 square feet of office space is recommended in order to prevent "[sick building syndrome](#)"
- 4) **Be Fair!** - Switch to fair-trade, shade-grown coffee and a reusable coffee filter for the office coffee pot. Reusable filters reduce waste and shade-grown coffee protects biodiversity in coffee-growing countries.
- 5) **Save A Tree!** - Watch the paper and ink. Avoid printing documents that could just as easily be emailed, and print necessary papers on both sides. It also helps to institute a recycling program, and to switch to recycled paper and water-based inks.

June 2010

Does *your* business have excess organic material?

If your business produces or possesses excess organic material...read on! Free Green Exchange is a FREE service that connects businesses that have surplus organic material with homeowners that need it.

Free Green Exchange allows contractors to post surplus materials that would otherwise be wasted or disposed of at their own cost. Area residents can then log-on and select the materials they would like to put to use. The reclaimed material is kept out of the landfills and helps create a sustainable world!

Interested? Check out freegreenexchange.com to learn more.

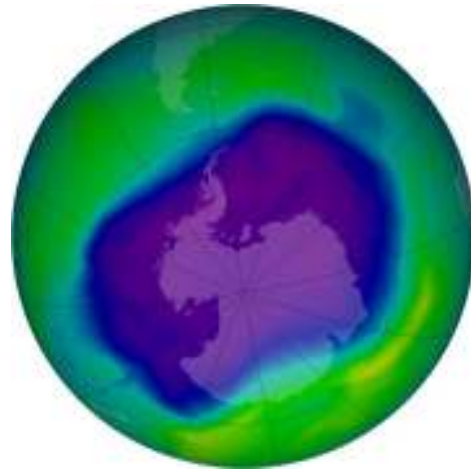


MISSION : CLEAN AIR

Be Aware of Peak Ozone Season

May is here, bringing warmer weather and the possibility for unhealthy air quality. May through September is Peak Ozone Season, when we face an increase in ground-level-ozone emissions, resulting mainly from our own personal vehicles. High CO2 emission levels especially affect members of sensitive groups including the elderly, children, and those adults who are active outdoors all day. People with asthma or lung problems should especially avoid heavy exertion outdoors to prevent any breathing problems.

Unhealthy air affects us all! High levels of green house gases in the air can result in chest pain, difficulties with breathing, narrowing of airways, and even annoying eye irritation. In an effort to reduce the impacts on our community's air quality, the Greater Lansing Area should watch for Ozone Announcements of orange or higher and take action! Learn more and keep updated at <http://www.cata.org/CATAServices/CleanCommuteOptions/OzoneActionSeason/tabid/510/>



Simple Steps To Cleaner Air

We know that getting in your own car and driving is often the easiest and quickest option, but you may not know that a small change in the choices we make everyday can have a big impact on our community's air quality all year round!

- 1- *At least* once a week, choose to ride the bus, or choose other commute options such as biking, walking or carpooling.
- 2- Fuel your car in the evening and don't top off your gas tank.
- 3- Telecommute or work a compressed schedule if possible.
- 4- Mow your lawn in the early evening when it is usually cooler.



CLIMATE CORNER



Trucks Play Significant Role in Air Quality, Climate Change

If your business utilizes trucks as a means of transporting products, you may want to investigate their idling practices. Many trucking companies permit a considerable amount of engine idling; something that uses quite a bit of gasoline and can be unnecessary.

What is engine idling? Engine idling is simply the act of running a vehicle's engine when the vehicle is not in motion, but parked in one place. Limiting idle time saves fuel, engine wear, and money while reducing emissions and noise. Idle reduction options typically refer to technologies and practices that reduce the amount of time vehicles idle their engines.

How much petroleum can be saved from trucker idle reduction? A lot. Consider the example of a trucking fleet of 50 Class 8 trucks that reduce their idling by 8 hours per day. This fleet will save over 100,000 gallons of fuel per year! If every trucking company operating in Michigan reduced their idling the impact on petroleum consumption would be HUGE!

